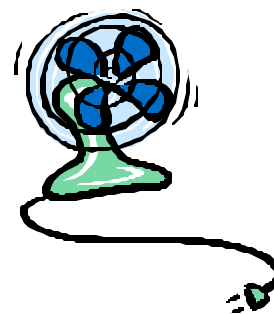


Indoor Electrical Safety



- If plugs seem to fit loosely into a wall outlet, the wall outlet needs repair, call an electrician. A loose fitting wall outlet may cause overheating and a fire.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition - not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object and they should not have any furniture or carpeting resting on them.
- Check to see that extension cords are not overheated. Additionally, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not as safe as permanent household wiring.
- Make sure the proper-type plug is in each outlet. If you are using three-prong plugs in a room with two-conductor outlets, do not cut off the ground pin (the third/bottom prong) from the plug; this could lead to an electrical shock hazard. A better solution is to use a two-prong adapter. **NEVER FORCE A PLUG INTO AN OUTLET IF IT DOESN'T FIT.**
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) prevent many electrocutions. GFCIs are devices installed in kitchen and bathroom outlets. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. Test GFCIs regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.
- Check the wattage of all light bulbs in lighting fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture. Replace bulbs that have higher than recommended wattage; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer of the fixture. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs may overheat.
- Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct sizes for the circuits. If you do not know the correct size fuse, have an electrician identify and label the sizes to be used. If one appliance repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker, or if it has emitted an electric shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.



- Water and electricity don't mix. Don't place any electrical appliances near water, i.e., a sink or a bathtub. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, unplug it and don't use it until it's been checked by a qualified repairperson.